



**M** UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH-WEST  
MICHIGAN MEDICINE

# Grand Rapids Marathon

Foster Swift Half Marathon | Pepsi Zero Sugar Marathon Relay

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Michigan Health-West Grand Rapids Marathon October 15-16 2022



### For Runners. By Runners

Started in 2004 by runners who sincerely love their sport, the Grand Rapids Marathon is truly for every runner. We have recently incorporated one of Michigan's oldest races, the Run Thru the Rapids 5K & 10K, into our October weekend. This transition allows us to put on a 5k, 10k, half marathon, and marathon, as well as a marathon relay. We truly have something for everyone!

With our eyes on Fall, over 5,000 will join us as runners and volunteers, filling the streets of our beautiful downtown in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Contact: Don Kern 616 293 3145 [donkern1@gmail.com](mailto:donkern1@gmail.com) for more info



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## Our Events

### The University of Michigan Health – West Grand Rapids Marathon

#### Saturday, October 15th

- The Health & Fitness Expo - Located at the David D Hunting YMCA. This event features a wide array of local businesses.
- Grand Rapids Kids Marathon - Presented by Family Capital Management  
The amazing kids of Grand Rapids take to our 1.2 mile course to wrap up a total of 26.2 accumulated miles, celebrating a healthy lifestyle.

#### Sunday, October 16th

- The University of Michigan Health - West Grand Rapids Marathon
- The Foster Swift Half Marathon
- Pepsi Zero Sugar Marathon Relay
- Run Thru the Rapids 5k and 10k

Leading up to Grand Rapids Marathon weekend, we host the following events.

- 10 & 20 Mile Training Run - Saturday, September 24, at the David D Hunting YMCA
- VIP Event Preview - Thursday, October 6, at the University of Michigan Health West Campus (tentative date and location)

The Grand Rapids Marathon is the top Fall sporting event in West Michigan, bringing participants from over 40 different states and Canadian provinces.



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## Our Other Events

As we have grown through the years, we have expanded the family of races we put on. Below is a list of the events that we host annually.

### Groundhog Day Marathon

Friday & Saturday, February 3rd and 4th, 2023 - 11th year

These events take place at Secchia Meadows in Millennium Park. We've all heard of Punxsutawney Phil, the little furry guy in Pennsylvania who comes out, sees his shadow, and declares six more weeks of winter. Then there's Augustus T. Groundhog, better known as Grand Rapids Gus. Gus suggested that instead of lamenting over six more weeks of winter, we should EMBRACE the cold and snow and do something fun. And so, the Groundhog Day Marathon was born.

Friday's Distances included

- 1/6th Marathon World Championship

Saturday Distances

- Half Marathon
- Marathon

### Millennium Meadows Marathon

Saturday, August 28th - 5th year

These events take place at Secchia Meadows in Millennium Park, one of the many Kent County Parks and what we think is the most scenic and beautiful. The course is a wide, paved path that crosses a footbridge, winds along the Grand River, and cuts through meadows.

Distances included

- 10k
- Half Marathon
- Marathon
- Marathon Relay

### Last Chance BQ.2 Marathon

Saturday, September 10 - 9th year

This event takes place at Secchia Meadows in Millennium Park. Every runner at this event is attempting to qualify for the Boston Marathon, at a time just before registration for next year opens. The best Boston Qualifying race in the USQ, with nearly 60% of finishers qualifying.



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## Sponsorship Benefits

### **Affiliation with one of the premier athletic events in West Michigan**

Since 2004, a grassroots, For Runners, By Runners event. Be part of the biggest Grand Rapids Sporting event of the fall season

**Event Weekend Exposure** Visibility on our printed fencing and on the course. Your presence at our Health & Fitness Expo. Your company on the shirt. Your online presence with us goes to our whole mailing list of nearly 20,000 subscribers.

**Year-round Exposure** We're not just a one-weekend event. Our newsletter and social media continue year-round. Many thousands weekly engaged with our social media pages. Because we put on events throughout the year, your message is visible many times though all the seasons.

**Share the Pride in our Greater Grand Rapids Area** Annually we bring people to Grand Rapids from over 40 other states and provinces, where they enjoy our arts, sports, culture, and cuisine. Whether it's the Griffins, the Symphony, Meijer Garden, or our Beer City USA craft beer culture, we're proud to share our West Michigan features.

**Flexibility** Sponsor one or several events. We can customize a package to give you exposure in our events year-round.

**VIP Treatment** We appreciate YOU. At the race, and at our special VIP Preview event about 10 days prior to race weekend we treat you like royalty.

**Discounted or Free Race Entries** It's not just your company, it's your runners. Your team in your team shirts makes the event more fun.

**Contact with the Right People** Nearly 79% of runners have earned a college degree. They're goal-oriented people earning well above the median income. They're strong, fit, and healthy. Your kind of customer or client.

**Charity Support** Your support of our event also supports the YMCA, My Team Triumph, Kent County Parks, Camp Manitou-Lin and many local sports teams who volunteer for our events. Our two biggest fund-raising charities, Team World Vision, Hope Water International, combined to raise over \$650,000 in 2021.